

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph starting at page 8, line 3 with the phrase "In a preferred embodiment" and ending at page 8, line 10 with the "or the like." and substitute the following in its place:

In a preferred embodiment, ball member 60 includes hemispherical body 62 having longitudinal axis 65. Channel 66 is formed in the exterior surface of ball member 60 directly opposite receptacle member 81. Bore 64 extends through body 62 obliquely relative to the longitudinal axis 65 to define an angle, α , as shown in Fig. 5. The term "obliquely" with respect to describing the orientation of bore 64 with respect to longitudinal axis 65 is intended to mean neither perpendicular nor parallel. Ball member 60 may be formed, preferably molded or cast, from any material that is rigid and durable such as metal or plastic or the like. The body 62 further defines two lateral recesses 69 located adjacent to bore 64 as shown in Figs. 3 and 5.

Please delete the paragraph starting at page 8, line 11 with the phrase "A hanger bracket" and ending at page 8, line 23 with the "socket 115." and substitute the following in its place:

A hanger bracket 110 is also provided having an upper end, or top 112, that is mounted to surface 20. Surface 20 can be any surface, including a flat ceiling, a sloped or cathedral ceiling, or a support beam. Hanger bracket 110 also has a bottom end 114 that defines a socket 115 having an opening 116

therethrough that is wider than the width of the down rod 90 and narrower than the diameter of ball member 60. The bottom 114 and top 112 are connected by a wall 111, which has reinforcing members [113] for adding additional support. Socket 115 is shaped to receive ball member 60 so that they form a ball and socket joint. Ball member 60 is received in socket 115 such that the down rod 90 extends through opening 116. The socket 115 further defines a gap 120 in the socket 115. Gap 120 is wider than the width of down rod 90 and narrower than the diameter of ball member 60 and is positioned so that down rod 90 can pass through gap 120 when mounting ball member 60 in socket 115. Additionally, channel 66 receives protruding member 117 to prevent rotational movement of ball member 60 in socket 115.